has suggested a need for its rationalisation. This exercise may also entail the creation of some new zones and divisions.

Further processing for formulation of proposals and other related matters is being undertaken.

नई रेल लाइनों के निर्माण हेतु मानदण्ड

*158. **श्री रामजीलाल:** क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) नयी रेल लाइनें बनाने के लिए सरकार द्वारा क्या मानदण्ड निर्धारित किए गए हैं;

(ख) सरकार ने इस वर्ष किन-किन राज्यों में नयी रेल लाइनें बनाने का कार्य आरम्भ किया है;

(ग) क्या हरियाणा राज्य में इस वर्ष या चालू योजना के अन्त तक किसी नयी रेल लाइन का निर्माण किया जाना है; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है?

रेल मंत्री (श्री सी॰के॰ जाफ़र शरीफ़): (क) राष्ट्रीय परिवहन नीति समिति ने नई लाइनों के निर्माण और परियोजनाओं के लिए मई 1980 में प्रस्तुत अपनी रिपोर्ट में निम्नलिखित मानदण्डों की सिफारिश की थी:

(1) नए उद्योगों को सेवित करने या खनिज अथवा अन्य संसाधनों का दोहन करने के लिए परियोजनोन्मुखी लाइनें।

(2) अप्राप्त कड़ी के रूप में काम देने के लिए जो मौजूदा व्यस्त रेल मार्गों पर भीड़-भाड़ कम करने हेतु वैकल्पिक मार्ग बन सकते हैं।

(3) सामारिक महत्व के आधार पर।

(4) नए विकास केन्द्रों की स्थापना अथवा दूर-दराज के क्षेत्रों तक मार्ग की व्यवस्था करने के लिए विकासात्मक लाइनों के रूप में।

नई लाईन परियोजनाएं उपर्युक्त के अनुसार शुरू की जाती हैं।

(ख) इस वित्त वर्ष में महाराष्ट्र, कर्नाटक, मध्य प्रदेश और त्रिपुरा राज्यों में नई लाइनों का निर्माण शुरू किए जाने की संभावना है। इसके अलावा, आन्ध्र प्रदेश में उखाड़ी गई एक लाइन को पुनः बिछाने संबंधी कार्य शुरू किए जाने की आशा है।

(ग) और (घ) नूह से सोहना तक एक स्पर सहित बरास्ता पलवल, रेवाड़ी और नूह, खुर्जा से रोहतक तक राष्ट्रीय राजधानी क्षेत्र लाइन के निर्माण के लिए सर्वेक्षण चल रहे हैं। इस लाइन का निर्माण 8 वीं योजना के भीतर 1996-97 में शुरू करने के लिए आगे विचार करना सर्वेक्षण के परिणाम उपलब्ध होने पर संभव होगा बशर्ते कि संसाधन उपलब्ध हों।

'Operation Golden Bird' to Check Militancy in North-Eastern States

*159. DR. RANBIR SINGH:
SHRI RAM NATH KOVIND:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state;

(a) whether the Army launched an operation 'Golden Bird' to effectively curb, contain and check militancy and secessionism in the North-Eastern States like Nagaland, Manipur, Assam, Mizoram and Tripura;

(b) if so, the State-wise details of success achieved in the operation; and

(c) what further steps are being taken to effectively curb militancy and secessionism in the border States of North East?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S.B. CHAVAN): (a) and (b) The Army launched an operation in Mizoram against an armed gang of about 200 insurgents/militants infiltrating from Bangladesh along the Indo-Myanmar border. The gang was successfully intercepted. The Myanmar army also undertook operations within Myanmar territory. The operations, resulted in the following:—

(i) Militants killed	58
(ii) Militants apprehended	43
(iii) Militants who surrendered	12

(iv) Weapons recovered 84

(v) Ammunition recovered 11000 rounds Approximately

A large number of militants were forced to abort the infiltration attempt.

(c) A series of steps have been taken which *inter-alia* include strengthening of deployment of Security Forces in the Sensitive areas and gearing up of intelligence machinery; sensitisation of neighbouring countries to ensure that the militants/insurgents do not get aid, assistance and facilities from their territory for carrying out activities directed against India, declaration of the concerned associations/groups as unlawful under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967; declaration of affected areas as 'Disturbed Area' under the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958 as amended from time to time, firm handling of those indulging in violent activities motivating them to join the national mainstream provided they adjure violence and agree to work within the Constitution of India.

Plan to keep criminals out of politics

*160. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: SHRI SARADA MOHANTY:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Home Minister has recently suggested that criminals should be put out of politics; and

(b) if so, what is the plan to keep criminals out of politics?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S.B. CHAVAN): (a) A general suggestion was made that political parties should avoid giving party tickets to persons having a criminal record.

(b) While Section 8(3) of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 provides that a person convicted of any offence and sentenced to imprisonment for not less than two years is disqualified from contesting elections, Government feel that keeping criminals out of politics will require a firm consensus among the political parties and strong public opinion in this regard.

Development of wet land and mangroves in the country

1053. SHRI SARADA MOHANTY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the total wet land and areas covered by mangroves in the country (State-wise)

(b) whether Government have taken steps for the development of wet land and mangrove areas in different States;

(c) the steps taken in that direction in Orissa so far, and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) A survey of all the wetlands in the country has not been carried out. However, an Inventory of Wetlands prepared by the Ministry of Environment and Forests lists natural and man-made wetlands in different States/Union Territories in the country covering a total area of 40502 sq. kms. The total area covered by mangroves in the coastal States/Union Territories is 4.273 sq. kms. The State/Union Territory-wise area covered by wetlands and mangroves is given in the Statement. (*See* below)

(b) Yes, Sir. The steps include setting up of a National Committee on Wetlands, Mangroves and Coral Reefs at the Government of India level and Steering Committee at the State Government's level for the planned management and conservation of these areas, a centrally sponsored scheme to